

EMVOYS OF ALLIES OUTLINE ATTITUDE ON U. S. PROPOSAL

Oral Representations Made on
Question of Disarming
Merchant Ships.

BELIEVED TO FORESHADOW REJECTION OF THE PLAN

State Department Withholds Com-
ment Pending Receipt of Formal
Communications.

U. S. MAY UPHOLD BERLIN

High Officials Said to Believe Con-
tentions of the Central Pow-
ers Are Well
Founded.

Diplomatic representatives of the entente allies have made oral representations to Secretary Lansing regarding the American memorandum to their governments suggesting the disarming of merchant ships and suggesting that armed merchantmen entering American ports might be regarded as warships.

Although the State Department declined to disclose the nature of the representations, it is believed Secretary Lansing was informed that the entente governments were unwilling to adopt the suggestion.

Formal replies to the memorandum are expected. It is considered doubtful that the exact position of the United States will be defined until after they have been received.

The texts of the notes from Germany and Austria, which have been handed to Ambassador Gerard and Penfield setting forth the intention of those governments to treat armed merchant ships of the entente allies as warships after the last of this month, also are being awaited. So far, it was said, the representations of the entente representatives had to do solely with the American memorandum.

Waiting on Official Texts.

A high official today declared it was not fair to say at this time that the views of the United States on armed merchant vessels were absolutely in accord with the views of Germany and Austria. Officials will make no decision until the official texts have been received from Berlin and Vienna. Until they arrive State Department officials will reserve comment.

There are strong indications, however, that the position of the central powers will be found in view of the changed conditions of sea warfare.

Strong Protest May Follow Any Change by U. S. in Rule for Armed Merchantmen

If the temper of the allied governments can be judged by the feelings of their diplomatic representatives here, it is evident that any attempt by the United States to change the present rule permitting the use of American ports by merchant ships armed for defensive purposes will be met by a strong protest. Correspondence also is likely to follow if the United States assumes a position which coincides with that of Germany and Austria regarding the right of submarines to sink armed ships without warning.

On the other hand, the United States itself may take the initiative should the entente allies impose a virtual boycott on American ports in the event of this government deciding that armed merchant ships entering American waters are ships of war, and therefore subject to internment.

Awaiting Receipt of Notes.

The definite attitude of the United States toward the stated intention of Germany and Austria will be determined after the formal texts of the notes, which have been handed to Ambassador Gerard and Penfield, are received from Berlin and Vienna. Once the texts are before officials here it is believed the position of this government quickly will be defined. Only seventeen days remain before German and Austrian submarine commanders will start to put their new instructions into operation.

The view of at least some of the representatives of the entente allies here is that any change made in the rules of the war would be an unequal act. The governments are represented as not being prepared to admit that there has been any change in the conditions of naval warfare which would warrant merchant ships armed for defensive purposes being characterized as warships.

Germany's Viewpoint.

In Teutonic quarters, however, it is contended that merchant ships armed for resistance, and that merchant ships have no right to resist. Moreover, it is claimed by Germany that it is impossible to adhere to the principle of warning merchant ships in accordance with the views of the United States should they be armed, a single shell of small caliber being sufficient to sink any submarine which might attack.

FOUR MEN WIELD GUNS AND KNIVES TO WAR SECRETARY

Dentists, College Classmates
and Former Partners, Prin-
cipals, One Near Death.

FIGHT OCCURS IN LOCKED ROOM IN ST. LOUIS HOTEL

Dummy Figure of Woman in Bed
Used as Lure—Alleged Debt
Cause of Trouble.

ST. LOUIS, February 12.—Dr. Charles W. Kennerly of San Antonio, Tex., and Dr. A. F. Johnson of St. Louis, college classmates, former business partners, fought with knives, revolvers and dental instruments in the locked room of one of the top floors of a leading downtown hotel here last night. Why they did it was disclosed today by a rumpled piece of paper found in Dr. Kennerly's pocket.

The paper was an affidavit, copies of which had been sent to officers of a fraternal organization here, in which Dr. Kennerly accused his former associate in the dental business of failure to pay a twenty-five-hundred-dollar debt and of withholding other funds which Dr. Kennerly claimed were due him. The affidavit asked that Dr. Johnson be expelled from the order because of the alleged wrongs to Dr. Kennerly.

Dr. Johnson Near Death.

Dr. Johnson is at the City Hospital today, having been between life and death, his face and body terribly slashed and a wound through both hips and the groin made by a bullet from a revolver. Dr. Kennerly, also cut about the face and on both arms, is a prisoner at the hospital, a police charge against him awaiting the outcome of Johnson's injuries. Two other participants in the fight also are prisoners today—Walter A. Diefenbach of Granite City, Ill., at the hospital with his throat badly slashed, and Charles Lody, at police headquarters.

Conflicting stories were told by Kennerly, Lody and Diefenbach. Kennerly said that, happened to be in Diefenbach's room when Lody and Dr. Johnson entered, the latter with a knife in one hand and a revolver in the other. He said he came to St. Louis to collect the money he claims from Johnson, but denied he used a revolver or that he fought except in self-defense.

Attacked Upon Entering Room.

Lody said that as assistant to Dr. Johnson he accompanied the latter to Diefenbach's room on a professional call. Diefenbach, according to Lody, had posed as "Mr. Arnold" and had requested Dr. Johnson to perform some dental work on "Mrs. Arnold" in their room at the hotel. As he and Dr. Johnson stepped into the room, Lody said, Diefenbach attacked Lody and Dr. Kennerly attacked Dr. Johnson.

On the bed two pillows and a sheet were molded into the form of a "woman." Dr. Johnson was to treat Lody admitted cutting Dr. Kennerly and Diefenbach, but said he did it only to save his own life and that of his employer, Dr. Johnson.

Diefenbach admitted registering as "Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Arnold of Mobile, Ala." He said Dr. Kennerly had arranged the dummy on the bed. Diefenbach formerly lived in Granite City, Ill. Six months ago he was married and moved to St. Louis. Two weeks ago, he said, he left San Antonio and a few days ago met Dr. Kennerly in St. Louis. Kennerly and Johnson were graduated from the Washington State University Dental College about the same time.

TRIBUTES TO DR. WASHINGTON

Deceased Educator Subject of Eulogy at Carnegie Hall Meeting.

NEW YORK, February 12.—Tribute to the memory and achievements of the late Booker T. Washington were paid by leaders in negro educational work last night at Carnegie Hall, under the auspices of Tuskegee Institute, Hampton Institute and the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes. Seth Low, former mayor of New York, presided.

Maj. Robert R. Moton, commandant of cadets at Hampton Institute, and who had been elected to succeed Dr. Washington as head of Tuskegee, eulogized the late negro leader and described his labors for the uplift of his race.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate:
Met at noon.
Lands committee continued oil lands hearing.
Adjourned at 12:53 p.m. until noon, Monday.
House:
Met at noon.
Debate on post office appropriation bill continued.
Speeches on Lincoln's life were made and Lincoln's Gettysburg address was read.
Rear Admiral Benson told harbor committee improvement of New York harbor channels leading to navy yard was imperative.
Hearing on administration ship bill was continued before marine committee.

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

Senate:
The partial agreement on the urgent deficiency bill, striking out the prohibition against the construction of the proposed central power plant on 14th street, was submitted by the conference committee.

WONKING VET AS TO WAR SECRETARY

President Removes Material
for Much Speculation by Tak-
ing River Cruise.

WITH MRS. WILSON GOES ABOARD YACHT FOR REST

Names of Cabinet Officers and Many
Congressmen Mentioned as Gar-
rison's Successor.

President Wilson took away from Washington last night material for much speculation as to the selection he will make of a successor to Lindley M. Garrison as Secretary of War. With Mrs. Wilson, the President suddenly boarded the naval yacht Mayflower last night and departed for a short cruise down the Potomac and Chesapeake bay, expecting to return tomorrow night or Monday morning.

As the trip is intended as a rest for the President it is not presumed he is doing more than thinking over the selection he will make, and it is expected he will not long delay the decision.

Score of Names Suggested.

A score or more of names, including cabinet officers, congressmen and prominent men generally, have been suggested to the President, and are being talked over throughout Washington. Among these foremost consideration is being given to Secretaries Lane and Houston and Counselor Polk of the State Department, it is said.

The shifting of any cabinet officer to the War Department would leave a vacancy that would draw further interest. Friends of Joseph P. Tumulty, the President's secretary, are concerned in the possibility that he may be promoted should there be a cabinet shifting. Mr. Tumulty is known to have no particular fondness for War Department work and is not likely to be considered for that portfolio, but his friends believe he stands an excellent chance of elevation to the cabinet whenever there is a vacancy in a position that would fit in with his qualifications and desires.

Several names also have been suggested for assistant secretary of war to succeed Henry Breckinridge, but it is generally taken for granted that the President will leave the selection to all the vacancies in the new Secretary of War.

Gen. Scott Kept Busy.

Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, who is temporarily administering the affairs of the War Department under an executive order issued yesterday, is expected to act as Secretary of War for a period not exceeding thirty days, pending the appointment of a regular Secretary of War, was an exceedingly busy man today.

In addition to the routine business of his military office as chief of staff, he was called upon to dispose of all the regular business of the purely civil establishment that has accumulated since the resignations and sudden departure of former Secretary Garrison and former Assistant Secretary Breckinridge. He also had to deal with a routine character, was piled on his desk in the early morning. A great mass of correspondence and business was disposed of additions of fresh correspondence was placed before the acting secretary and kept him almost constantly engaged.

It became necessary during the morning to consider some of the letters to confer personally with the heads of most of the military bureaus and to take up a great mass of correspondence having business requiring consideration from the head of the department. Although a secretary of correspondence was disposed of it is stated that Gen. Scott carefully refrained from acting on any important matter of policy or new question that was likely to come before the next civilian secretary for determination.

General satisfaction was everywhere manifested over the fact that the military establishment, which had been temporarily interrupted, was running smoothly again, and that there was a responsible head to whom all important matters of policy and business demanding immediate settlement could be submitted.

Expect Mr. Garrison to Return.

Although nobody in the War Department has heard from Mr. Garrison since his hasty departure for New York Thursday afternoon, it is assumed in the immediate office of the Secretary that he will certainly return here in a few days, least in order to arrange for the transfer of his private papers and effects in his private office in the War Department and in his former residence on Connecticut avenue. At the same time, it is expected that Mr. Garrison will return to his former private secretary on any one else, so far as known, to attend to those matters for him.

Furthermore, it is indicated that Mr. Garrison will return to this city for the purpose of saying farewell to his former official associates and to assist in the induction of his successor into office. In the case of Mr. Garrison, such a case, Mr. Breckinridge, who is now on a visit to Jamestown, Va., in company with his family, may also return to this city when his successor is appointed, in order to introduce him to his official associates and acquaint him with the character of unfinished business.

Some military matters which Mr. Garrison expected to dispose of, but which were left unsettled, was the military mail case of Lieut. Col. Lewis J. Goodier of the Judge advocate general's department and the case of Maj. George A. Langhorne of the United States attaché at Berlin, who is said to have brought important mail to the German embassy in this city. Mr. Garrison was expected to handle the case, but did not submit it to the President, as he intended, and was about to investigate the case of Maj. Langhorne to see if court-martial proceedings were required.

Interest in Successors.

Officers of the army and all employees of the War Department naturally are greatly interested in the selection of the successors of Mr. Garrison and Mr. Breckinridge, and are hopeful that action will not be delayed more than a few days. Some men, while admitting that they would rejoice over the appointment of Maj. Gen. Goethals or some other able successor, are nevertheless anxious to see (Continued on Fifth Page.)



LINCOLN DAY.

GERMANY TO BAR LUXURIES.

Would Conserve Financial Resources
of People for Real Necessities.

BERLIN, February 12.—The Berlin newspapers forebode an early order of the government designed to restrict the importation of foreign luxuries. The purpose is to improve the rates of foreign exchange by reducing payments abroad, and also to conserve the financial resources of the people for the real necessities of life.

Sir Hugh Wyndham Dead.

LONDON, February 12.—Sir Hugh Wyndham died at his residence at Rogate Lodge, Petersfield, Thursday. Sir Hugh was once minister to Brazil. He was born in 1835.

Tomorrow

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS
describes THE FRENCH
FRONT of 500 miles and VISITS
THE TRENCHES.

"WHY WOUNDED MEN FEEL
NO PAIN," an astonishing arti-
cle replete with amazing facts.
"THE DICTIONARY OF SUG-
GESTIONS," by HERBERT KAUF-
MAN.

"THE QUAIL CALL," a strong
story, by WILL PAYNE.

"WHITE HOUSE VALENTINES,"
they average between 1200 and
1500 each year.

A WASHINGTON WOMAN
"CAN" SINGS OF INDIANS.

"RAISING DOGS FOR PROFIT,"
by ALDEN FEARING.

"WAR CUTS OFF SUPPLY OF
VALENTINES FROM GER-
MANY," by CHARLES M.
PEPPER.

"SENDING THE CAPITALS
LINK SUPPLY OVER THE
'SOAP ROUTE' IN THE
LAUNDRIES."

"WITH ELMER LEFT IN," an-
other TORCHY STORY, by
SEWELL FORD.

"HOW I PAID MY WAY INTO
ENGLISH SOCIETY," the sec-
ond installment of a remarkable
series of articles.

"WHAT I AM MOST PROUD OF,"
a two-page spread of photo-
graphs.

FRANK G. CARPENTER writes of
"THE TRIMPEAN INDIANS
OF ANNETTE ISLAND."

"AMERICA'S SUPPLY OF OLD
CLOTHES FOR THE POOR
OF BELGIUM IS EXHAUST-
ED."

The thrilling story of a MAN WHO
GRAPPLING WITH LINCOLN'S
ASSASSIN.

"THE KAISER AS I KNEW HIM,"
by THE PRINCESS EULALIA
OF SPAIN.

"GERMANS ENDEAVOR TO
HOLD THEIR FOREIGN
TRADE THROUGH USE OF
MAILS."

"UNCLE SAM IS TEACHING
HEALTH AND SANITATION
THROUGH A CIRCULATING
LIBRARY OF SCREEN PIC-
TURES."

In The
Sunday Star

On the Road to the First-Line Trenches in France.

WILLIAM T. MARTIN tells of his journey with a small party of French soldiers at night through deserted towns and countryside into the thick, of bursting shell and screaming shrapnel. Read this remarkable article tomorrow in The Sunday Star.

DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO POISON IS ALLEGED

One Hundred Guests at Banquet to
Archbishop Mundelein Are
Made Ill.

CHICAGO, February 12.—A hundred guests were made ill at the banquet to Archbishop Mundelein at the University Club Thursday night. Belief that they were victims of a deliberate attempt to poison was announced today by Manager Doherty of the club.

According to his statement a considerable amount of active poison was placed by an employee of the club kitchen in the soup served at the banquet.

The man was described to the police as a fanatic whose mentality possibly was disordered. The name of the suspected person was not divulged by Manager Doherty, who said that analysis of the soup had disclosed the presence of mineral poison. According to his statement the suspected man did not return to his room after the banquet, and search of his apartments by the police disclosed a carefully equipped laboratory and several vials of poison, one of which corresponded to the poison found by analysis of the soup.

Archbishop Mundelein did not partake of the soup and thus escaped the illness that affected many of the distinguished guests at his table.

THINKS CONGRESS AGAINST NEW IDEA OF MILITARISM

Berlin Newspaper Sees That Situation
in Secretary Garrison's Res-
ignation From the Cabinet.

BERLIN, February 12, via London, 10:50 a.m.—Although American press dispatches give no details in regard to the circumstances of Secretary Garrison's resignation, the Lokal Anzeiger sees an indication that a majority of Congress is opposed to "the new form of militarization," by proclaiming which President Wilson expected to take the wind out of the sails of his republican opponents and, above all, the saber-rattling Roosevelt. This newspaper expresses the opinion that Congress undoubtedly represents the majority sentiment in America in opposing the abandonment of old principles.

The Morgen Post says: "The feeling in Congress plainly is thoroughly peaceful. The propaganda for gigantic armaments which had been staged by Secretary Garrison and his assistant ardently have resigned and the Secretary of the Navy may soon follow."

600 Pounds of Powder Explode.

NEW CASTLE, Del., February 12.—Six hundred pounds of powder exploded in a dry house at the projectile plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company near here last night, injuring two workmen and completely wrecking the building. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

BAY STATE REPUBLICANS UPSET OVER CANDIDATES

Senator Weeks' Boom for the Presi-
dential Nomination Runs Foul
of Movement for Gov. McCall.

Massachusetts republicans are having their troubles these days over their presidential candidates, and hardly a week goes by but somebody throws another monkey wrench into the machinery. The Weeks boom was going along finely until the McCall people got jealous and started a movement for the governor, who, Massachusetts republicans say, owes no inconsiderable part of his election to Senator Weeks.

But that is not all. Not content with confronting Weeks with McCall, they have dragged Col. Roosevelt into the turmoil.

Representative Gardner, former Lieut. Gov. Cushing, Charles Sumner Bird and State Senator Robert M. Washburn have announced their candidacy for delegate at large from Massachusetts to the national convention, in these words:

Combination for Delegates.
"We are candidates for delegates at large from Massachusetts to the republican national convention. We are tired of vague statements and beating around the bush. We propose to go straight to the point and give every one a chance to know for what he is voting in the primaries. We don't want to go unpledged. We do not want a convention set up for dark horses. We want Roosevelt for President."

Massachusetts republicans say that it is a fine combination. Mr. Cushing, it will be recalled, ran against Mr. McCall for the gubernatorial nomination a few years ago. But at present he is more in favor of Col. Roosevelt than Gov. McCall or Senator Weeks for the presidency. In the meantime, the friends of Mr. Burton, Mr. Fairbanks, Mr. Cummins and the others are highly delighted with the troubles of the Massachusetts camp, and wish more power to the elbows of the men who, they say, are disarranging the machinery.

KING FERDINAND VISITS AUSTRIAN HEADQUARTERS

LONDON, February 12.—A Vienna dispatch to Reuters says that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria arrived yesterday at Austro-Hungarian general headquarters, accompanied by Bulgarian Premier Radoslawoff and Gen. Joffe, commander-in-chief of the Bulgarian forces and minister of war. The king and his suite were received by Field Marshal Archduke Frederick, Commander-in-Chief of the Austro-Hungarian army, and by Field Marshal Baron Franz Conrad von Hotzendorf, chief of staff of the Austro-Hungarian forces.

Col. and Mrs. Roosevelt Sail.

NEW YORK, February 12.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt sailed yesterday on the British steamship Guiana for a pleasure trip through the West Indies. The first port the Guiana will stop at is St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies, which will be reached February 17. After visiting the Danish, French and Dutch colonies, Col. Roosevelt expects to return to New York arriving here March 17.

POWER PLANT BILL AGREED TO IN PART

Newlands Amendment Halting
the Construction Stricken
Out by the Conferees.

REPORT TO THE SENATE WILL BE CALLED MONDAY

Items in Dispute Said to Be Those
in Which District Is Most
Interested.

The Newlands amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, holding up the construction of the proposed government central power plant at the foot of 14th street, was stricken out of the bill today by the conferees of the Senate and House.

Senator Martin, chairman of the appropriations committee, from the conference committee, reported a partial agreement on the bill.

Items still in dispute between the two houses are: The Senate amendment for an addition to the Powell school; the Senate amendment relating to the bureau of engraving and printing increasing the number of delivered sheets of United States currency, and transferring appropriations already made so that they may be used for materials needed by the bureau; the Senate amendment increasing the limit of cost of the Lincoln memorial from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000; the Senate amendment providing \$25,000 for the Arlington memorial bridge commission.

The disputed items are those in which the District is most interested, except the Newlands amendment, which was thrown out.

Will Call Up Report Monday.

Senator Martin gave notice that he would call up the report Monday for consideration in the Senate. Senator Newlands had explained that he was not prepared to go on with the discussion today. When Senator Martin laid the report before the Senate, Senator Newlands declared that he did not intend to prevent the construction of the central power plant under the existing plans.

"The conference committee did not agree to that amendment," replied Senator Martin. "I wish, then, to notify the Senate," said Senator Newlands, "that failure to adopt this amendment means a serious impairment of the general plans of the park commission for the beautification of the Mall. I hope that senators will get the statements of the eminent architects and engineers on this subject and read them before this matter is voted upon."

Senator Phelan of California asked if the law did not provide that the fine arts commission must pass upon plans for such buildings in Washington before the contract was let.

"Yes," said Senator Newlands, "unless there is some special arrangement by Congress. The fine arts commission did not pass upon the plans for this building before the contract was let; they were not laid before the commission until afterward. The commission had reported unfavorably upon the plans."

"Says Contract Was Illegal." "The letting of the contract was illegal," pursued Senator Phelan. "It was," said Senator Newlands.

"Who has the right of disputing this contract, then?" asked Senator Phelan. Senator Newlands said he was not quite sure as to who had the right, but he supposed the government should act on the matter. Senator Martin, who is opposed to the Newlands amendment, here interrupted to say that he hoped the senators would visit the site selected for the central power plant.

"They would be convinced that the plans for the central power plant can not harm the city," he said. "Has the President of Virginia made a personal inspection of the site?" asked Senator Gallinger.

Senator Martin said that he had done so. Senator Newlands said that the first impression of senators visiting the site might be that it was well located for a power plant and that the proposed building would be far better than the general squalor which now exists there.

Cites Other Consideration.

"But the senators should use their imagination," he said. "They must remember that the water front, under the plan, would be made more beautiful, and that Potomac Park would be highly developed. Now it is proposed to erect this power plant four or five stories high, with smokestacks almost 200 feet high. They will vie with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln memorial in catching the eye, attracting by their hideousness, and the monument and the memorial attract by their beauty."

Senator Martin obtained permission of the Senate to have printed in the Record a letter of Secretary McAdoo of the treasury defending the plans for the power plant.

Senator Newlands then asked permission to print in the Record also the opinions of the architects and engineers opposed to the erection of the plant under the present plans. Senator Martin objected, pointing out that a letter of Secretary McAdoo had been printed as a hearing before the Senate library committee.

Senator Newlands for the printing of the architects' opinions, however, was adopted.

ANCHORS OFF FORT MONROE.

Mayflower, With President and Mrs. Wilson Aboard, Is Reported.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., February 12.—The naval yacht Mayflower, with President and Mrs. Wilson aboard, arrived off Old Point Comfort, Va., at 1:30 this afternoon.

The Mayflower dropped anchor off Fort Monroe, and it was said on shore, although this could not be confirmed, that the President intended coming ashore.

The Mayflower is not flying the President's flag, and that probably accounts for the fact that the fort fired no salute, and there were no ceremonies in honor of the President's arrival. Col. Ira Haynes, commandant of Fort Monroe, immediately upon the arrival of the yacht off the fort attended to the communication with the commander to learn if the President desired any courtesy shown him by the military authorities.

RUSSIANS RESUME STRONG OFFENSIVE

Succeeded in Capturing Heights
in Stripa Region, Near
Isebroff.

TCHERMINE HEIGHTS OCCUPIED BY CZAR'S MEN

Slav Onslaught Gives Promise of
Spreading Along the Whole
Eastern Front.

PETROGRAD, via London, February 12.—Although a general Russian offensive is officially reported along the entire Russian front, the only developments of more than local and temporary importance are the Russian advance in the Stripa region, southeast of Isebroff, where the Russians succeeded in capturing heights commanding the district in which runs the main railway line between the Chodorov and Stry rivers, and the occupation by the Russians of the heights east of Tchemerine.

The progress in the latter district, which is between Rovno and Lutsk, is another sign of the resumption of the Russian offensive, which came to an abrupt halt a month ago, when the Germans apparently succeeded in erecting such firm fortifications that further attempts at an advance on the part of the Russians became a waste of energy and ammunition.

Due to Artillery Power.

It is considered significant that a new and more formidable Russian offensive is being launched against the same positions, and with initial successes. This is explained by most of the military observers as due to the new power and effectiveness of the Russian artillery, which recently has shown marked improvement on all fronts.

The Germans, evidently surprised by the fierceness of the new Russian onslaught, which promises to extend to a general initiative along the whole line, have been forced at several points in Galicia to retire to their second line of defense.

Russian Statement.

The following official Russian communication has just been issued: "The Riga section, between the Mitau road and the Dvina river, there has been an active artillery duel. Our artillery at many places dispersed bands of enemy workmen. Five versts (about three-quarters of a mile) southeast of Ikskul two explosions occurred in an enemy battery."

"In the region of Iloukett an exploded mine under a German blockhouse and occupied the crater. As the result of a successful reconnaissance in the region south of Lubtcha we demolished a bridge which the enemy had commenced to build across the Nibulna in the Lubtcha valley."

"Near Tchemerine (Volhynia), by the combined action of our infantry and artillery, we repulsed a series of successive enemy counter attacks, which were launched after preparations by the enemy to throw a large number of heavy artillery. Farther south our scouts have made useful explorations."

"The situation now is rather acute. We maintained possession of the height, however."

Movements in Bessarabia.

LONDON, February 12.—A Reuters dispatch from Amsterdam says: "Budapest advices received here are to the effect that Russian railway communication with Rumania is interrupted. The situation is rather acute in Bessarabia. Only military trains are moving in Bessarabia."

U. S. BEING ROBBED, GOETHALS' VIEW

The liberality of various joint land commissions in settling claims for property taken in the Canal Zone has "robbed" the United States of millions, Gen. Goethals has advised the House interstate commerce committee.

His statement came when he appeared to urge the passage of the Adams bill to force the commission to settle for lands on the basis of their value when the treaty was entered into with Panama in 1903, rather than their increased value as has been the custom.

Euge Increase in Value.

All of the land in the ten-mile strip along the canal subject to claims would not be worth more than \$1,000,000 as its 1903 value, the general said, but it is likely to cost \$17,000,000 or \$18,000,000 at the rates which have been paid. "The joint